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# VERSES

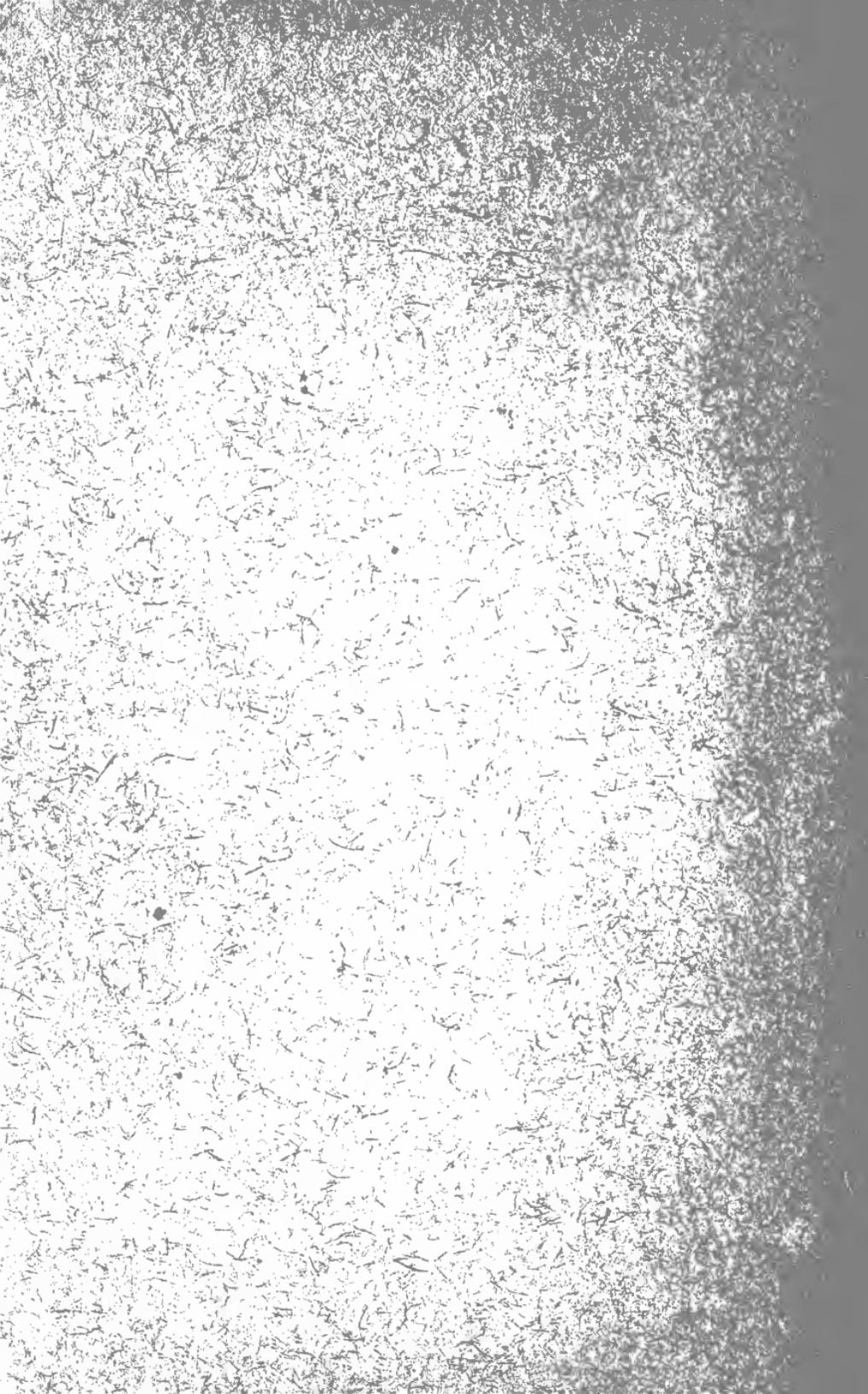
'VARSITY, SCHOLASTIC,  
AND OTHERWISE.

By A.C.B.

Cambridge

W. P. SPALDING, 43, SIDNEY STREET

1914



# VERSES 'VARSITY, SCHOLASTIC, AND OTHERWISE.

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**W. P. SPALDING, 43, SIDNEY STREET**

**1914**

*The Person Responsible for these rimes cordially thanks the Editors of the "Evening Standard," the "Educational Times," the "Cambridge Review" and the "Granta" for their kind permission to reprint.*

*He is very conscious that the transient nature of the subjects—some dating from his undergraduate days—lessens even such small interest as the verse may once have had.*

*But as any improbable surplus will be devoted to that splendid institution, the Belgian Relief Fund, he hopes that many of his acquaintances—and others—will submit to the extortion of paying a minimum of a shilling for a little book which can plead no other excuse for its existence.*

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## VERSES.

### CAMBRIDGE AND THE NEWER LEARNING,

Rang there never note of warning ere there came, that  
fateful morning,  
The decided and uncompromising tale ;  
Nor those phrases circumstantial and convincing any  
man shall  
Dare to travesty—we saw it in the *Mail* ;  
He who ran could read the crisis that is looming on the  
Isis,  
While Olympus gazes, pallid and aghast,  
And, in whispers tense and hollow, Zeus, Athene and  
Apollo  
Are demanding if the latest means the last.

For our fair (if elder) sister, can it be, till now has  
missed her  
True vocation in the paths of classic lore ;  
Is her dallying in the dreamy maze of  $\lambda\acute{u}\omega$  and  $\tau i\theta\eta\mu\iota$   
At an end with her Co-operative Store ?  
For professors are combining with *alumni* in refining  
Still the super-Selfridge methods of the day ;  
'Mid commercial boom and rattle shall Herodotus his  
prattle  
And the throbbing lyre of Pindar die away.

And the rapid institution in a fitting devolution  
Of each specialised department we shall see ;  
For your cigarettes you'll think on the eclectic stock at  
Lincoln,  
While the House will do you proudly as to tea ;  
When the gas is growing feeble send a message round  
to Keble,  
And for sympathetic socks apply to Queen's ;  
For an outfit equatorial or antarctic go to Oriel,  
And to Univ. for your bacon and your beans.

Let it be our grim endeavour that the critical may never

Say we're lagging in the academic race,  
Let us organise, for pity, a consultative Committee,  
Though the anguish'd gods of Hellas hide their face ;  
Let our labours never lighten till we see the posters  
brighten,

With a wealth of glad insistence, every wall,  
On the Pembroke porous sweater, or the Jesus car-  
burettor,  
Or the peerless patent pickles of the Hall.



### SIC TRANSIT.

(The Kindergarten based on principles of "non-interference" and "intuition" established at Rome by the Dottoressa Maria Montessori, is attracting enormous attention, especially in America.)

Though the cold and the wet on the earth linger yet  
there is pulsing of life by the Styx,  
From Elysian glades have assembled the shades, in  
discussion intent and prolix ;  
There's a sinister note as of rumour afloat of events  
cataclysmic at Rome,  
And Charon is pestered with every boat for the latest  
editions from home.

For the story hath run that it's over and done with  
the names of the turbulent Past,  
They are doomed, it would seem, as a moribund dream,  
to extinction abnormal and fast ;  
In the counsels of men are the labours forensic of  
Cicero melting away,  
And the efforts of Caesar with sword and with pen are  
as naught in the eyes of to-day.

There shall burst nevermore as a cloud in the Forum  
 the Sadies and Mommers and Pops.,  
 Pressing on before tea to the "old Coliseum," and  
 leaving an hour for the shops ;  
 Nor thunder they át all the doors of the Vatican now  
 in an infinite line,  
 But seek, in a cultus to Murray schismatic, the new  
 academical shrine.

O the joy there will be when the gazers shall see that  
 Carlo can roll on the floor,  
 When Antonio's mind makes the staggering find that  
 one goes in and out by the door,  
 When Luigi shall squeak at the end of a week that  
 he knows how to stand on his head,  
 And when words of one letter (exclusive of Greek) by  
 the lisping Giuseppe are read.

And the excellent books of the Lunns and the Cooks  
 shall indicate daily the place  
 Where, non-interference permitting, our dear little  
 Beppo is inking his face,  
 Where intuitive wailing is heard as the tail is pulled  
 of the Institute cat,  
 And where *pâtés* of mud on doctorial scale are composed  
 in the visitor's hat.

---

### FIN JUILLET.

There's a stirring in the study, and a rustle in the class,  
 There is quivering sensation in the air,  
 There's a sound as of a going that will surely come to  
 pass,  
 Of an exit from the pedagogic chair ;

There are symptoms of the shedding of the academic gown,

Of the hurling of the academic cap,  
Of the academic duster cast incontinently down,  
Of a dancing on the academic map.

There's a smashing of the test-tube and a sweeping of the floor,

A detaching of the clapper of the bell,  
There is emptying of bottles of their  $H_2SO_4$ ,  
Of their  $AgNO_3$  and  $HCl$ ;

There is banging of the lexicon, and closing of the page  
Where  $\tau\acute{u}\pi\tau\omega$  lurks the guileless youth to vex;  
And the curtain's falling rapidly upon the darkling stage  
Where the *Ranae* chant a last  $\beta\acute{r}\epsilon\kappa\epsilon\kappa\epsilon\rho\acute{e}\xi$ .

There's the downland ever changing 'neath the shadow and the sun,

And the sea-wind whirring cleanly through the gorse,  
And the fiords that own the sceptre of the admirable Lunn,

And the bunkers low'ring grim around the course;  
There's the trout defying artifice in limpid mountain stream,

There's the road that hears the panting push-bike's toil,  
While the purring of the engine lulls the plutocrat to dream  
Of a universe of rubber and of oil.

Be the dear impedimenta salmon-rod or spade and pail,  
Be the destination Margate or Montreux,

Do they rush to mount the Dolomites, or press they on the trail

Of phonetics at St. Malo or Bayeux,  
'Tis a glad farewell and merry to the blackboard and the chalk,

The parabola, the cosine and the tan,  
And an exodus superlative from endless realms of talk  
To lose the weary teacher in the man.

## THE TEACHERS' STRIKE.

O why do we hail with a frenzy our *Mail*, or clutch at  
 our scintillant *Star*,  
 Or sprint as one man for the latest in *Standards*, or  
 cry for our *Leader* afar ;  
 Is there gloomy report of intent to deport a Cabinet  
 Council *en bloc*,  
 Is the Tango arising again to cavort, does a Bishop  
 appear in the dock ?

Can it possibly be that we're panting to see yet another  
 ecstatalogical shriek  
 Of the marvellous "press" that our own Dottoressa  
 commands by the day or the week ;  
 Are we pining to hear once again that the dear little  
 infants can roll on the mat,  
 Or to learn of the pension for martyrdom drear that the  
 Casa awards to the cat ?

It is not such as these that, with tremulous knees, we  
 seek as our journal we buy,  
 It is but that we know there's a sound of a going afar  
 in the orchards of Wye ;  
 There's a crowd that awaits every wire at the gates  
 of the schools in the succulent vale,  
 And the sedulous guardians of Hereford's rates are  
 intense, and perspiring, and pale.

For the Chevalier Yoxall hath pulled up his socks,  
 and is out for a fight to a finish,  
 And the soldierly Ranken, with eye on the Bank,  
 hath a temper that naught can diminish ;  
 At each other they glare, while the trumpeters blare,  
 and the Board (unofficially) weep,  
 And enfranchised *discipuli* dance in the air with a joy  
 unaffected and deep.

## A DUFFER IN IND.

“ Dum-dum,” of *Punch*, I read those cryptic verses,  
 With pleasurable thrilling up my spine,  
 Ere to the Land of Vain Regrets and Curses  
 I booked my passage by the humbler line  
 That courts the humbler income—such as mine,  
 Yet scruples not from man and Government  
 To squeeze the playful extra ten per cent.

Read, with a keen, anticipating wonder,  
 Your travell’d judgment on Earth’s fairest sight,—  
 Bombay ! The Harbour, the Apollo Bunder,  
 Outlined with myriad points of glimmering light,  
 In the dead warmth of Asiatic night :  
 Till, at the end, I met the cynic turn,  
 That stipulation for a view—astern.

Here, in the plains, upon an August morning,  
 Musing, I sorrowfully ponder why  
 On earth I passed that seasonable warning—  
 Oracle of a *vates Punchii*—  
 To seek the land of Lala Lajpat Rai,  
 The scented East of deodar and palm  
 And patriotic “ *Bande Mataram* ! ”

And, as in deep and speechless stupefaction,  
 I realise that here indeed I am,  
 The mystery of what was the attraction  
 That lured me from the peaceful shores of Cam  
 Evokes a sudden, unofficial “ D—— ! ”  
 For I, alas, care nothing for *shikar*,  
 Nor know a tum-tum from a Ralli-car.

Perspiringly I feel myself grow paler,  
 Conscious of both ineptitude and heat,  
 As on the points of pony or of “ waler ”  
 All whom at the eternal Club I meet  
 Interminable argument repeat ;  
 Or when I earn abysmal, dire disgrace,  
 By falling in the mounted paper-chase.

I never yearn to see in my possession  
 The quaint conception called the Indian dog,  
 Nor ever am I conscious of obsession  
 By any wish to perforate a hog ;  
 I only dream of Home, and cold, and fog :  
 Where other topics sometimes fill the bill  
 Than either how to ride or how to kill.

Boredom, and heat, and hopeless isolation,  
 (Pace the shades of Hastings and of Clive)  
 Where endless stages of inoculation  
 Seem to be needed just to keep alive,  
 Where but the soldier and the sportsman thrive,—  
 “Dum-Dum” is both ; yet hymned that pæan<sup>s</sup> of  
 glee ;  
*A fortiori*, what is it to ME ?

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#### EDITORIAL CRUELTY.

[“Do us something on May Week.”]

There was wanton caprice in the godlings of Greece as  
 they sported with man and with fate,  
 There was organisation intensive in Hades for such as  
 passed in at the gate,  
 There was plentiful part for meticulous art in arranging  
 an *auto da fe*,  
 And Nero would work with the whole of his heart for  
 a swank holocaustic display.

But for lachrymose me every pang medieval and classic  
 has gone to the wall,  
 And the rites not a few of the tender Hindu unto Kali  
 have ceased to appal ;  
 I am ordered to write dithyrambic delight in the charm,  
 of the Week of the Fair,  
 And to rhapsodise praises of dear Aphrodite, when lo,  
 I am not to be there !

By the powers, 'tis a thrill that electrifies still, the station, the crush, and the train,  
 The purpling socks and the staggering frocks, the sun and the spatter of rain ;  
 As it were but to-day can I see the array, though, musing, my optics be shut,  
 The whirl and the glamour of Flapperdom sway, the halo encircling the Nut.

They will throng as before to the willowy shore, they will urge the prohibitive punt,  
 They will flutter and flit to the profit of Ditton, and press for a place at the front ;  
 At the megaphone Stearn they will hurriedly turn, as it bellows the annual jest,  
 And, outwardly frigid, will inwardly burn to know if they're looking their best.

The ball they will grace with *susurrus* of lace, with dainty creation of gown ;  
 With the tinkle of feet give a version discreet of the latest contortion from town ;  
 And the stupefied Don will they radiate on, till, pink and perspiringly hot,  
 With bacchanal frenzy he rushes incontinent forth for the Tango and Trot.

Ah, gods ! it is mine in the desert to pine, to be with you only in dream,  
 To ponder with envy the girls and the men as they splash on the languorous stream ;  
 But yet may there come for my solace a crumb—though I now be as one of the dead,  
 Though my voice had been better eternally dumb—if Jesus will only stay head ! (i)

## “DEAR OLD CHARLIE.”

(The Censor's own Play Censored.)

“Neither can anyone conceive that any healthy-minded person could come to any moral harm from seeing the Play.”

*Daily Mail.*

“The foulest blackguardism may, in the Joint-Censors' eyes, be regarded with impunity so long as it is applauded.”

*Daily Chronicle.*

Delightful mentors of the public taste,  
I humbly crave your kind elucidation  
Of what you possibly evolved in haste,  
And now perpend in learned meditation :  
My longing grows diurnally intenser  
To reconcile your views upon the Censor.

While that the doctors disagree and quarrel,  
I sit, astonished, at the feet of both—  
For what my Carmelite approves as moral  
Has rendered Fleet-street gibberingly wroth :  
Can things be real, that *dicta* so divergent  
Fluster us in these matters grave and urgent ?

Questions enough, both dubious and polemic,  
There are to stir your energetic life,  
But here, my Masters, all is academic—  
Far from political or social strife :  
Reveal then, at your neophyte's petition,  
The causes of this polar opposition !



## THE DECEASE OF THE NEWER DANCES.

There is gloom in the face of the decadent race that  
has galloped and slithered and swung,  
There is woe and dismay for the *jeunesse dorée*, and  
the maids they have hurtled and flung,

For the time will be short that is left to cavort, the  
hour of quiescence is nigh,  
And the prophets unanimous flock to report that the  
cult zoologic must die.

There was hope at the first that the public, immersed  
in the cabling, caustic and blunt,  
That we meditate on when Our Own Correspondent  
is tethered afar from the front, (i)  
Would fling but a glance at a venture, perchance,  
distracted by rumour of war,  
At the paramount issue, the Sins of the Dance—and  
let them go on as before.

But all is in vain, for the papers again are sealing the  
fate of the nation,  
And many a column, portentous and solemn, will echo  
the stern agitation ;  
It is easy to see that the frigid decree has given  
intensely to think,  
For gone are the glides of our G\*by D\*sl\*s to the slick  
syncopation of Finck.

The thrill that may lurk in the Trot of the Turkey  
will rapidly pass from our ken,  
It is over and done with the Hug of the Bunny in  
haunts of the children of men,  
And all that is fair in the lurch of the Bear that is  
Grizzly will waddle away  
In discomfited flight to its nethermost lair at the dawn  
of a soberer day.

---

THE FARTHEST HORIZON.  
TO M: E. M. S.

Let us hasten, my Muse, with a shriek to enthuse on  
the apotheosis of Fad,  
Let us hymn the result of the lunatic cult of a world  
that is everywhere mad ;

(i) In the Balkans (1911).

In the rage for the Rink there was proof, one would think, that the wits of us all are at sea,  
But Bedlam incarnate would shudder and shrink at the blend of the Tango and Tea.

They are bringing to town the parental half-crown,  
the Brixton and Camberwell Nut,  
I can see the *mélée* of the festal array—of the which I would pray to be shut ;  
And the Flapper is there with the plaits in her hair,  
and the paint on her cheek and her eye,  
And the rigid expression of earnest despair to pose as an actress or die.

They are twisting and twirling, the man and the girl,  
they are nibbling the butter and bread,  
They have painfully done all the hundred and one of the steps they have crammed in their head ;  
They are sipping the cup when the time may be up,  
they are settling their vacuous brain—  
The typical Flapper, the typical Pup, of the typical Georgian strain.

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### UNMASKED !

“ In a case before Mr. Fordham, the complainant stated that the defendant had called him an Earwig.”—*Daily Paper*.

Can it be true that there is now another  
Fond appellation of the Cockney wit,  
That man may name a fellow-man and brother—  
Perchance with adjective 'twere best omit—  
The agile creature that my Encyc. Brit.  
Proclaims to all the English-speaking area  
To be “ *Forficula Auricularia* ” ?

Insidious insect, that with devastation  
 Wouldst nightly prowl my small suburban plot,  
 And for whose capture and annihilation  
 I place the subtle, and inverted, pot,  
 What time the days are lingering and hot ;  
 This is, I say, with confident prognosis,  
 Thy diabolical apotheosis.

In evil must thou surely have exceeded  
 The rodent slug, or the exploring worm :  
 What other sombre evidence were needed  
 Thy deadly super-sinning to affirm ?—  
 Thou art become an Actionable Term :  
 Presume no more my fragrant beds to gnaw ;  
 And know thyself, henceforth, Within the Law !



#### BEFORE THE ULSTER HALL EPISODE.

He will come, he will come, to the crash of the drum  
 and the clang of the cymbals of Fame,  
 He is bound to be there, for the fun of the fair and the  
 sheen of his scintillant name ;  
 Could it possibly be that the Lord of the Sea should  
 cavil at crossing his own,  
 To herald to Erin the speech that is free in the way that  
 is Winston's alone ?

Let the fatherly *Times* hint unmannerly crimes whose  
 guilt must recoil on his head,  
 Let the Ulsterman boast in the truculent *Post* of the  
 ultimate ditch of the dead ;  
 Let the *Leader*, dismayed at their pomp and parade,  
 yield place to our Douglas's pen,  
 With chastening counsels abnormally staid—they are  
 painfully out of his ken.

Though Craig may be rude, and opinions obtrude of  
 a nature decisive and bold,  
 Though Carson look grim, in the manner of him,  
 though Derry (of London) be cold,  
 Their whims matter not, their gain is un-got, their  
 schemes are concocted in vain,  
 For Winston intends to be there on the spot, and  
 exemplify Winston again.

When the harp that we mourn shall be finally shorn  
 from the flag of perfidious Britain,  
 When Jerry MacVeagh has it all his own way, and  
 Devlin disports as a kitten,  
 We will rush to bespeak a Memorial Week, our cham-  
 pion's deeds to recall,  
 When Redmond and Healy shall hymn with a shriek  
 the inspiring descent on the Hall.

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#### DER ZEIT-GEIST.

With the coming of Spring there's a whirl and a fling  
 in the portals adjacent to Paul's,  
 With a surge and a rush the matutinal crush hathn  
 encircled the classical walls ;  
 There's a petulant cry from the Smiths and the Wymans  
 as, panting, they struggle for more,  
 And the pundits are summoned from sanctums on high  
 to resist with their backs to the door.

For the fiat of Northcliffe is hurtling forth to the dwellers  
 in uttermost climes,  
 That the children of men are to read for a penny the  
 ultimate signs of the *Times* ;  
 And the glittering trail of our purposeful *Mail*, insidious,  
 indicates soon  
 Dithyrambics on "soccer," a serial tale, and stop-press  
 editions till noon.

With profoundest respect may we think to expect,  
dear Editor (1), also from you  
Just a *soupçon* of such of the Carmelite touches as  
blend with the old and the new;  
Will you deftly insert the illusive advert. in the column  
portentous and bland,  
Or establish a bureau for counsel expert on the servants  
extant in the land?

Is your erudite brow bewrinkled ere now with a leader  
on dusters and chalk,  
Will you feature a snap of yourself, it may hap, in the  
Park for your afternoon walk,  
And, for pity, provide a pictorial guide to that dread  
mathematical page  
Where riot the  $\beta$ 's and  $\gamma$ 's unbridled, where "functions"  
do horribly rage?

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### LOUVAIN.

Not venerable age nor sacred fame  
Could spare her treasures from the drunken foe;  
Gentle and mild she stood, nor thought to know  
The sword's cruel stab, the searing of the flame:

Ashes and dust cry out the deed of shame,  
And call to God for that avenging blow,  
Bringing His deep, unutterable woe  
On men who do their vileness in His name.

Belgium has lost her mother-town; and we,  
Impotent when the devil-work was done,  
Crushing the loving travail of the years,  
Think, if we dare, on what our land would see  
If Oxford, Cambridge, fell before the Hun,  
And mingle curses with the martyrs' tears.

## CES RUSSES.

In these days of stress and trouble is the dismal labour  
 double  
 Of the poet who would catch the public eye,  
 When the still *crescendo* rattle of the super-Nietzsche  
 battle  
 Calls the best of us to conquer or to die ;  
 Yet there came a gleam of humour in that exoteric  
 rumour  
 Flying paramount throughout the worried land,  
 Of the Muscovitish legions that from Archangelic regions  
 Had invaded in a friendly phantom band.

There was evidence conclusive by those doughty, if  
 elusive,  
 Clerks and signalmen of Darlington and Leith ;  
 And that lunchovitch demanded by the bearded  
 giants remanded  
 In the sidings of Montgomery and Neath ;  
 There were affidavits stringent on the Cheltenham  
 contingent,  
 There were whitewashed trains from Lynn to Appledore,  
 And the woeful hour of panic when we knew the  
 " Oceanic "  
 Meant they hadn't ammunition any more.

Though the *Chronicle* its leader in the rôle of special  
 pleader  
 Argued cogently of gauge and time and space,  
 Though the Bureau made assertion with augmentative  
 exertion  
 Till F.E. grew ever blacker in the face,  
 They could never undeceive a single fond professed  
 believer  
 In the host that came and vanished into air,  
 At each dubious enquiry he would only launch a fiery  
 Ultimatum that he KNEW that they were there.

## THE KINEMA IN EDUCATION.

All-conquering invention, as you spread  
 Your democratic tentacles afar,  
 And, at the hour when youth should be abed,  
 Entice its threepence with your Yankee star  
 Eloping with a maid and motor-car,  
 Jumping a chasm, planing through the air,  
 (Featured by Kalem or by Pathé Frères) ;

Or, with a frowning, pantomimic sleuth,  
 Tracking the paths of transatlantic fraud,  
 Evoke poetic justice for the truth ;  
 Or rouse suburban sportsmen to applaud  
 The frenzied rides of Arizona Maud ;  
 Still further conquest, then, expands your rule—  
 The private doings of the Molecule !

Yours, as a right, Biology hath been—  
 Have we not all, with shudders, seen at home  
 In oily wrigglings, on the flickering screen,  
 'Mid phagocytes inimical, to roam  
 The fascinating, bland Trypánosome ?  
 But that your glance is piercing deeper still  
 Starts the imagination, stirs the will.

Shall not linguistics also have a show ?—  
 Surely a theme to tempt a worthier pen—  
 A diphthong breaking up, an opening *o* ;  
 The “yod” in action : bands of desperate men  
 Tracking the French subjunctive to its den :  
 Here be your future laurels, dare I say,  
 My Gaumont, Vitagraph, and Essanay !



## A YOUNGER TRIPPOS PLEADS FOR RECOGNITION

Why must it be that the glad devotee of the Trip.  
 that ye hail at the top  
 Ever the toll should annex of the whole of the *Granta's*  
 percentage of "shop";  
 Why the perpetual gibe that we get on the  $\tau\alpha\hat{\nu}\rho\omega\iota$ , the  
 $\pi\rho\gamma$ , and the  $\Delta\hat{\eta}\nu$ ,  
 Why not a change from the limited range of the Attic  
 and Latian scene?

Why not prefer to Catullus or Vergil the cult of the  
 new *dilettante*,—  
 Marlowe and Greene, Molière and Racine, Ariosto,  
 Petrarca and Dante;  
 Why not be done with Euripidan pun and with quasi-  
 Socratic contention;  
 Why not a jest on a *chanson de geste* or a quaint  
 Euphuistic convention?

Come ye and know that the primitive *o* with the *a*  
 will infallibly "fall,"  
 Bow to the "yod" as the tutelar god of phonetic  
 enormities all,  
 Mournfully quake at the pitiless "breaking" of  
 innocent *i* or of *e*,  
 Ponder the cause of the mystical laws of a diphthongisa-  
 tion with me!

Ours are the sweets of researches in Keats, for us is  
 the grin of Voltaire;  
 Ours to explore dialectical lore and to list to the joyous  
*trouvère*;  
 Hark to the croon of the dulcet Walloon and the dainty  
*patois* of Lorraine;  
 Carol a hymn to the praises of Grimm and a psalm to  
 the honour of Taine!

Sing we the song of the studious throng of the new  
academic upheaval,  
Sound we the fame of the scintillant name of the Modern  
and eke Medieval ;  
Hey for the troop who diurnally swoop through the  
portal adjacent to John's,  
Maidens and men, with the notebook and pen, at the  
heels of the fugitive Dons !

---

## IN THE CAMBRIDGE EASTER VACATION.

### A LAMENT.

Seductive lilt and banjo-line forsaking,  
My Muse dictates an elegiac strain—  
Verses in sombre monotone partaking  
The darkling gloom that wraps my heart and brain.

Ye who in hansoms outward to the station  
Vanished *instanter* when the term was o'er ;  
What do ye reck of wretches whom Vacation  
Leaves in its wake as wreckage on the shore ?

What do ye know of dreary days unending  
When March, departing, roars with rain and sleet  
Upon the solitary outcast wending  
His painful way along St. Andrew's Street ?

In Hall a ghastly row of vacant places ;  
The last lorn Little-Going wight is down ;  
Stay—at the Union are familiar faces—  
The admirable staff of St\*nl\*y Br\*wn.

But there I strike a deeper note of anguish,  
My haunts are “Closed for cleaning and repairs” ;  
Disconsolate within the hall I languish,  
Or stumble on a bucket on the stairs.

The river—I will watch the ripples glitter,  
 Canoeing down the Backs. Another shock—  
 From Strange's man the intimation bitter,  
 "They've drained the water off at Jesus Lock."

The Theatre—ah, thither will I hasten ;  
 Perchance may Thalia consolation bring ;  
 A poster stands my eagerness to chasten—  
 A comic Jew in " Soldiers of the King."

So to my hermit cell I pass with sorrow,  
 And—though connoting horrors of the Mays—  
 I hail the advent of the glad to-morrow  
 That shall bring term, and friends, and brighter days.

---

#### THE FIRST CAMBRIDGE MOTOR-BUS.

O who will not go for a roar and a blow from the station  
 and back to the square  
 On one of the two apparitions in blue that the Vac.  
 has evolved for us there ;  
 O who will not rush in the Saturday crush for the  
 thrill of a trip on the top,  
 Or quiver with pride—and the engine—inside at the  
 snort and the start and the stop ?

Amazes the eyes the Gargantuan size, amazes the  
 hooter the sense,  
 As swoops on its way in despotic array the Triton of  
 traffic immense :  
 In sooth but a few will be left in the Cury at hearing  
 the ominous roar,  
 There *cannot* be place in that limited space for the  
 monster and anything more.

O bring up your " brown " for a tour of the town, from  
 nine in the morning till ten ;  
 This way for a new and sensational view of Christ's  
 and Emmanuel men !  
 The rooms where they keep, how they smile in their  
 sleep, the muffin for tea that they buy,  
 The bridge that they play and the rent that they pay—  
 you can gaze at it all from on high.

But a Stygian gloom will assuredly loom on the brow  
 of the lover of peace,  
 That still a new noise is to shatter the joys that for ever  
 and ever decrease ;  
 And loud is the wail of the bike and the trailer and trap  
 as they scatter afar  
 To left and to right in discomfited flight at the blast  
 of the God in the Car.

---

#### THE END THEREOF.

Awake, O Muses ! Bid the fervent strain  
 Of panegyric and of wild lament  
 Burst forth anew, and sob the sad refrain,  
 Or own your poets' fire unduly spent.  
 What, yields it nought in poesy to us—  
 The passing of the Cambridge Motor'-Bus ?

Shall not their lyres in throbbing accents still  
 The monsters' exit piercingly bewail,  
 Now that the stentor shouts of " Markit-'Ill ? "  
 Invoke no more the voyager by rail ;  
 Nor crashing jar and impotent breakdown  
 By turns distract and irritate the town ?

Behold the triumph of the aged Tram,  
 The Old and Peaceful living down the New!—  
 Emblem of life itself beside the Cam,  
 According to the average "*Placet*" view;  
 Akin to Greek, to Latin, and to Paley,  
 It stays, and stops, and crawls its courses daily. (1)

Is there not e'en an epic theme for you?  
 Calliope herself could scarce ask more—  
 The combat of the Yellow with the Blue,  
 The bang, the clash, the clatter, and the roar;  
 The toilsome grindings, tentative and late,  
 To Chesterton and cryptic "Rock Estate."  
 Rouse ye, and "somewhat loudly sweep the string,"  
 As Milton did for *Lycidas* of old;  
 Chanting your dirges of the loathly Thing,  
 Nor leave its deeds and decadence untold.  
 In rapt expectance of a masterpiece,  
 And humble anonymity, I cease.



### A COMPOSITE BÆDEKER.

The ordinary Guide-Book, being the work of a single writer, suffers from a certain monotony of style. Would not a combination of literary efforts produce a more varied effect? We offer the suggestion gratis to enterprising publishers, and may perhaps hope eventually to see a Guide to Cambridge executed somewhat as follows:—

#### I.—THE TOWN.

(*In the manner of Bart Kennedy*).

Cambridge!

We are here at the station. How noble is this station. How long is this platform. This one, long platform. Where the trains squeeze past each other.

(1) Alas, the situation is now once again reversed!

Up trains and down trains. All together. It is the longest platform in England. This long, asphalte platform. Here in Cambridge.

\* \* \* \* \*

How grand are these arches outside. These bold, sweeping arches. Norman arches. These fine, beautiful arches. Arches at the station.

In the road are tram-lines. There are two tram-lines. Each is parallel to the other. Therefore they never meet. What a thought is this! They never, never meet. These tram-lines in the road.

There is no tram upon them. The tram has gone. It has vanished from this flat, wide road. Strong men have wept for this tram. This calm, peaceful tram. Women and children have sought for it in vain. It has gone, and the tram-lines are left desolate. Here on the wide road.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is the river. It is called the Cam. Men call it thus because it cam, and never got back. An under-graduate told me this. A grave, studious undergraduate. Grave with the gravity of extreme youth. Musing by the Cam.

## II.—THE BACKS.

(*In the manner of Swinburne*).

Silvered sheen in the shaded green, with slowing slide  
to the sighing sea,  
Drifting far from the things that are to the soul of the  
things that ought to be;  
Here the note of the gliding boat, the plangent paddle  
and plashing oar,  
Onward creeping in languor'd sleep, and whisp'ring  
softly to sedge and shore.

Golden dawn o'er the gleaming lawn ; the birds sing out  
in the silence cold ;  
Purpling light in the eastern night, as Phœbus rides  
in his car of gold ;

Lambent flame where the Greek god came, the wings  
of dawn at his shoulders fair,  
Dream-like flow of effulgent glow, suffusing heaven  
and earth and air.

Hoary pile of the olden style that still recks nothing  
of storm and time,  
Guarding store of cryptic lore beyond the limits of age  
and clime,  
Floating weed and waving reed, and mullioned window  
and buttress strong—  
(The sense is weak, if the Bard may speak ; but the  
sound's the thing in a Swinburne song).

### III.—THE COLLEGES.

*(In the manner of Meredith).*

A famed portal this ; eighth Harry centralised, stout  
if stunted, and trappinged with fictive gold annually,  
as scions' tribute to progenitor in primal stone. Beneath  
lurks your Cerberus, modernly not tricephalous ; drowsily  
emergent to give head-affirmative or negative to query,  
and evoking a felicitous tourist-whisper, “ He has a  
tall hat ! ”

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*

Hard by, a similarity, with antelopes and red-brick,  
rushes to the perceptive faculty. Here, a vista of  
courts and cobblestones, with over-stream adjunct and  
Jove's bird as warden.

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*

How can we manage to print on the crow-scalp of  
the outsider, by watchmaker's eye eruptive of the  
infinitesimal, or under broad Alpine survey, conception  
of this pinnacled fane (abhorred exteriorally though  
by one Slade Professor of note) ? The penetrator,  
skirting, with head agape to gobble-up the venerable,

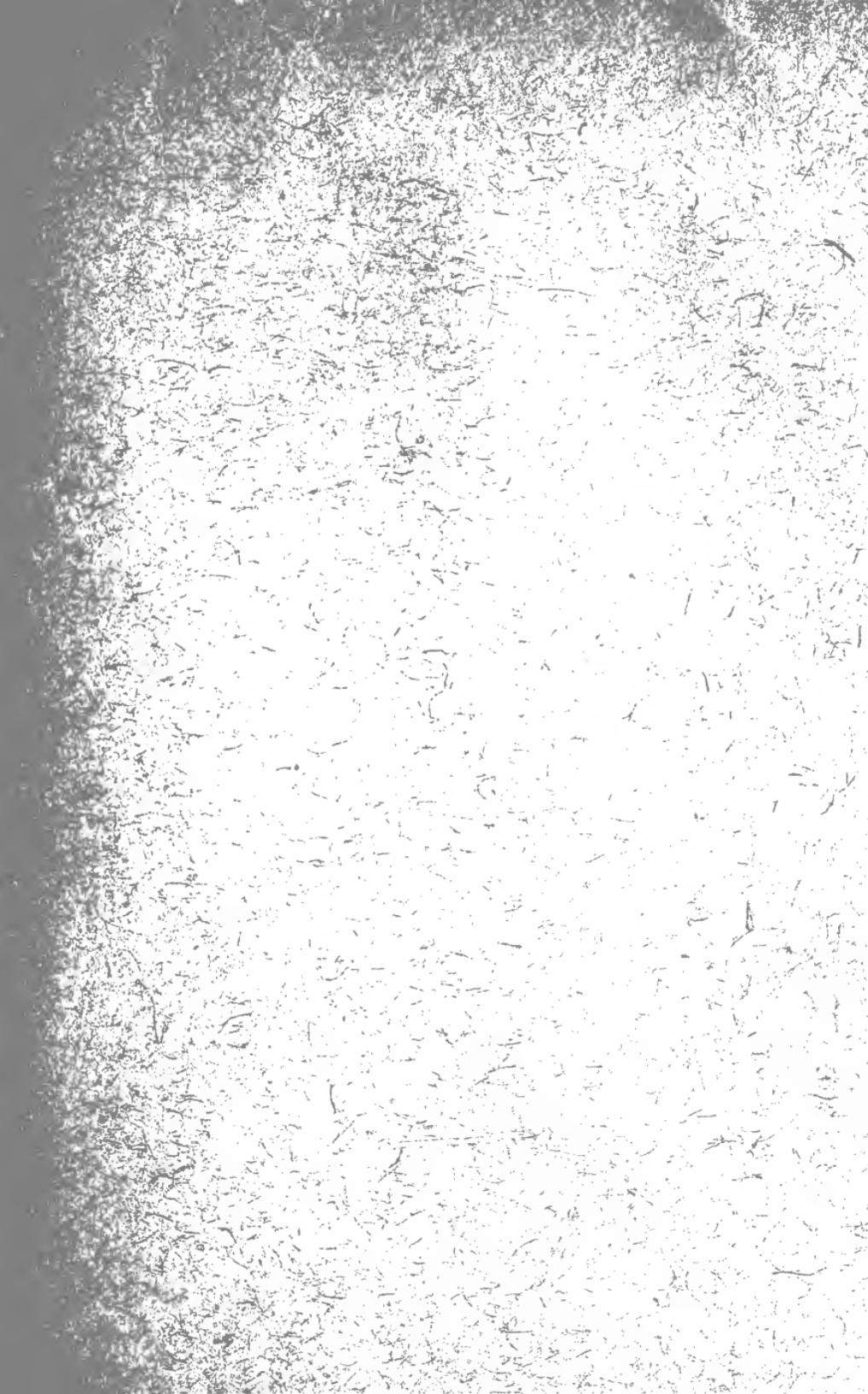
sacred Fellows' turf to left, meets quivering immensity on entrance, with such glories of blue-glass and French *fourmillement*, as are not dreamed of in the very clarity of the drug-sleep. Wherefrom, the lively dialoguer, one for witty bouts, argues the noted majesty of these *alumni*.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another pile here, isolated in oneness ; that blazons Chanticleer as totem—once with the Attic tag, ἐγώ εἰμι ἀλέκτωρ. Approach is by this alley, high-walled, constricted to chimneys. Within, Dædalian cloistered walks and buildings, whose denizens, not anchoresses now, are in a bubble about oarage.







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